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WHY DO PEOPLE BECOME INFORMANTS?

Informants have been around since Biblical times. The Old Testament reveals that Moses circa 1480 B.C. considered informing a just and necessary means to get Jews into the “*Promised Land of Canaan*” as well as to develop truthful information needed for worth-while purposes.

Herodotus portrays in Book V of his work “*Persian Wars*” spying and informants used around 500 B.C.

Scipio Africanus, Hannibal, Alfred the Great and many others like them down through the centuries have all engaged in spying, or the gathering of pertinent information through use of informants.

1. Motives of Informants – Why Do People Become Informants?

Academic and government agency studies have shown that people become informants for a variety of reasons --- such as the following, in no particular order:

Choice of location to serve sentence

Desire for witness protection program

Desire to go straight

Diversion of suspicion from their own criminal activities

Eccentricity

Elimination of competitors engaged in criminal activities

Elimination of rivals or unwanted criminal associates

****Fame and Income (see discussion below)**

Fear of harm from others

Fear of jail/resolution of criminal charge/working off a case

Genuine desire to assist law enforcement and society

Good citizenship/the ordinary citizen who wants to do his civic duty

Guilty conscience

Jealousy

Malice (ill-will, hatred or total disregard for the another person’s well-being OR reckless disregard for truth; a wrongful act done intentionally, without just cause or excuse)

Police buffs

Pre-trial release from custody

Reduction of sentence

Repentance

Revenge

Threat of arrest or charges

Threat of incarceration

Withdrawal or dismissal of criminal charges

Fame and Income

FBI and city, state, and federal security agency and police files on informants show many examples where their previous informants have sought to capitalize upon their association with those agencies by inflating their credentials in order to portray themselves as “*experts*” on internal security matters and to give themselves more gravitas and credibility so that their audiences would pay to attend their speeches, purchase their books or pamphlets, and subscribe to their newsletters and listen to their radio and TV broadcasts.

In many cases, informant income after surfacing was higher from their personal appearances (such as speeches) and from sale of their publications than from the combined income of the informant and their spouses while working in their primary occupations.

For example, on March 20, 1968 African American FBI informant Julia C. Brown told a reporter for the *Petersburg, VA, Progress-Index* newspaper, that she averaged 15 speeches per month under the auspices of the John Birch Society’s Speakers Bureau at \$200 per speech (i.e. about \$3000 per month)—thus eclipsing the annual income of her truck-driver husband, Curlee Brown, who earned \$65 per week from the Kelley Creek Collier Company in Cleveland. Curlee also earned income from other private hauling jobs amounting to a total of \$150 per week (\$600 per month [FBI-HQ 66-4579, 1A, serial #1 which is a credit report on Julia’s husband, Curlee L. Brown, compiled 08/17/50]).

FBI informants often sought to capitalize upon their FBI association to promote their own interests. For example: FBI informant Thad Mason admitted testifying falsely before the U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in 1953 “**for the purpose of enhancing the sale of a proposed book.**” On 11/30/54, the Department of Justice declined to prosecute him for perjury but FBI files were corrected to indicate his *unknown reliability* as a witness and other agencies were notified of his perjury. [FBI-HQ 100-55627 (Manning Johnson file), serial #28, page 23, 3/15/55].

The FBI sarcastically described informants like Thad Mason (as well as some of its former Special Agents like Dan Smoot and W. Cleon Skousen along with persons who were leaders of right-wing extremist groups as “**professional anti-Communists**”) because their annual income was dependent upon convincing (or scaring) audiences into purchasing their publications or pay to attend their speeches or pay to subscribe to their self-published newsletters not to mention securing advertisers for their radio and TV broadcasts.

Many of these folks were not particularly interested in meticulous accuracy in their comments after ending their informant role. Instead, **they tailored their comments to match whatever ideology was preferred by their sponsoring organizations** even if that meant contradicting their previous sworn testimony before Congressional Committees or in courtroom/administrative proceedings as well as contradict what they told their case agents in their reports to the FBI or other government agencies.

INFORMANTS SUPPLY RAW INFORMATION OF VARYING QUALITY.

Informant information may be mostly accurate and useful **OR** it can be flawed, wildly exaggerated or incomplete. Information provided may be based upon speculation, rumor, gossip, hearsay, hunches, guesses, malice, or outright falsehoods. Former FBI informant Harvey M. Matusow asserted that *The New York Times* had 126 Communists on the staff that produced its Sunday sections at a time when the entire NYT Sunday staff had only 100 people. Matusow later signed an affidavit disavowing his accusation against the *Times*. Not surprisingly, sometimes informants gave their audiences bogus reports about their conversations and encounters during their informant period.

That is why all agencies compare incoming information from their informants to whatever other information they receive (sometimes from other informants as well as from FBI investigations) or from other agencies such as military intelligence (G-2, ONI, OSI) or from local/state law enforcement agencies (Police Chiefs, Sheriffs, State Highway Patrol, U.S. Attorney offices etc) or from testimony during state or national legislative Committee hearings and from many other independent sources.

Agencies often assign a percentage of reliability to their informants or use terms such as “*of known reliability*” or “*of unknown reliability*”.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES RE: INFORMANTS

Gary T. Marx: “**Thoughts on a Neglected Category of Social Movement Participant: The Agent Provocateur and the Informant**” *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 80, #2, September 1974, pp. 402-442]

FBI Training Monograph: “**Analysis of Successful Communist Informant Interviews**”, July 1957, 57pp (57X82)

FBI Training Monograph: “**Reasons Why People Accept and Reject Communism**”, December 1951, 309pp]

FBI Training Monograph: “**Stool Pigeon or Loyal Citizen—Part I?**” August 1952, 107pp, 52N135]

FBI Training Monograph: **Stool Pigeon or Loyal Citizen? Part II**, [June 1955, 106pp, 55-O196]

Richard C. Donnelly: **Judicial Control of Informants, Spies, Stool Pigeons, Spies, and Agent Provocateurs** [*Yale Law Journal*, Vol. 60, November 1951, pages 1091-1131]

David J. Garrow: “**FBI Political Harrassment and FBI Historiography: Analyzing Informants and Measuring the Effects**” [*The Public Historian*, Autumn 1988, pp 5-18]

Daniel J. Leab: “**Anti-Communism, the FBI, and Matt Cvetic: The Ups and Downs of a Professional Informer**” [*Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, October 1991, pp 535-581]

Daniel J. Leab (co-founder of academic journal *American Communist History*):
“I Was a Communist for the FBI”: The Unhappy Life and Times of Matt Cvetic
[Pennsylvania State University Press, 1996, 182pp]

Robert M. Lichtman and Ronad Cohen: **Deadly Farce: Harvey Matusow and the Informer System in the McCarthy Era**. [University of Illinois Press, 2004, 227pp and 2008, 248pp]
<https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/43gte2fn9780252028861.html>

Anthony B. Newkirk: **“A Delicate Matter: The 1958 Special Education Committee Hearing”** [*Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Autumn 2019, pp 274-295 pertaining to “*Hearing Before the Special Education Committee of the Arkansas Legislative Council*,” December 16-18, 1958 [which refers to testimony of Manning Johnson, J.B. Matthews, W.Guy Banister]
<https://archive.org/details/arkansaslegislativecouncilcommitteehq62105198/mode/2up>

Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee on Segregation Hearing March 7-9, 1957 whose subsequent Report was entitled: **“Subversion in Racial Unrest parts 1 and 2”**
<https://archive.org/details/louisiana-joint-legislative-committee-on-segregation-hearing-march-7-9-1957/mode/2up>

This pro-segregation Committee invited testimony from ONLY people who were hostile to our civil rights movement and its leadership. The individuals who testified were:

Guy Banister (former FBI Special Agent)
Joseph Zack Kornfeder
Leonard Patterson
Manning Johnson
Hubert Badeau
Leander Perez

M. William Krasilovsky: **“Elevating the Role of the Informer: The Value of Secret Information”** [*American Bar Association Journal*, July 1954, pp 603-606]

FBI file 100-418015 **“Ex-Communists as Witnesses”** (aka Interdepartmental Committee on Security Witnesses)

A FEW CASE HISTORIES OF FBI INFORMANTS

Harvey Marshall Matusow (October 3, 1926 – January 17, 2002)

In January 1955, the FBI opened a new main file (HQ 100-418015) because of public statements by their former security informant Harvey M. Matusow in various public venues during which he stated that he had lied 245 times under oath while he was a government witness. The Department of Justice’s Internal Security Division also opened investigations and a file on *Ex-Communists as Witnesses*.

The embarrassment caused by Matusow resulted in a massive review of FBI files containing reports by Matusow and also by other FBI informants in order to ascertain their credibility and reliability or possible perjury prosecution.

One memo from the FBI Assistant Director in charge of the Security Division (D. Milton Ladd) to Director J. Edgar Hoover listed 32 cases (with more found later) where files **“were being**

appropriately marked to show the unreliability (of ***Matusow...***) [FBI-HQ 100-418105 (section 1), serials #1 and 1X, 12/30/53 and 3/2/55].

This same file contains numerous memos concerning Leonard Patterson and Manning Johnson because of their accusations against Dr. Ralph Bunche which eventually were determined to be false.

Matusow also claimed in his 1955 book "***False Witness***" that Senator Joseph McCarthy and Roy Cohn had encouraged him to lie. Because of his book, Matusow was found guilty of perjury, jailed for nearly three years, and ultimately blacklisted.

Matthew Cvetic aka Matt Cvetic (March 4, 1909 – July 26, 1962)

"*Ex-Communists as Witnesses*" FBI file memo observes that ***Cvetic was discontinued as an informant by this Bureau in view of various indiscretions on his part, such as one incident wherein he had allegedly been drinking heavily and had revealed to a female companion the fact that he was furnishing information to the FBI concerning Communist activities. During the period of time from January 1950 to the present, there have been additional allegations of intoxication and indiscretions of a similar nature on the part of this individual.***" [FBI-HQ 100-418015, serial #1X2, 3/9/55, pages 21-22]

Memo also states that ***"on numerous occasions both by memorandum and orally from December, 1950 until March 1953, when the Pittsburgh Smith Act trials began, the Department (of Justice) and the United States Attorney at Pittsburgh were fully advised of Cvetic's background, indiscretions and questionable public statements he had made subsequent to his discontinuation as an informant."*** Memo also reports that after being discontinued as an informant, Cvetic ***"has made a number of allegations concerning subversive activities which he had not previously reported to the FBI during his informant status. A number of these allegations were impossible to substantiate."*** And the memo refers to other comments by Cvetic which the FBI described as ***"completely false"***. [FBI-HQ 100-418015, serial #1X2, 3/9/55].

Cvetic was arrested 3/16/55 in Brownsville PA for drunken driving. He drove his 1953 Lincoln into a ditch. Cvetic was admitted to the alcoholic ward of St. Francis Hospital from 2/17/55 to 3/8/55 and then re-admitted on March 17, 1955 where he was admitted as a ***"chronic alcoholic"*** and then discharged March 26, 1955. Cvetic received 4 electric shock treatments while hospitalized. [FBI-HQ 100-418015, serial #3 and #4, 3/21/55, pages 34-36.]

"Cvetic's medical record corroborates the charge of all the victims of this informer that his testimony is unreliable, that his motives are questionable, and that his use by the Department of Justice and other government agencies calls for an investigation." [FBI-HQ 100-418105, serial #5, 3/29/55, pages 38-39 SAC Pittsburgh to J. Edgar Hoover]

Cvetic was interviewed by the FBI on 3/10/55 and he advised that on 2/20/55 ***"something happened to him...and that he drank heavily for several days. He stated that, as a result he became 'very sick' and was confined to St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh, where he received treatment for a 'nervous condition'.***

For additional details see: Daniel J. Leab book: ***"I Was a Communist for the FBI: The Unhappy Life and Times of Matt Cvetic"***, Penn State Press, 2010, 192pp. Also see:

<https://www.psupress.org/books/titles/978-0-271-02053-2.html>

While initially useful in multiple court cases, Cvetic's handlers at the FBI and Dept. of Justice ultimately concluded he was "**unreliable**", "**dishonest**" and "**neurotic**". J. Edgar Hoover advised subordinates that it would be "**most unfortunate**" to utilize Cvetic in future court proceedings. [FBI-HQ 418015, serials #3-4, section 1, pages 34-36, 3/21/55].

Another FBI memo reports that Cvetic was "**discontinued** (as an informant) **in January 1950, in view of his repeated demands for more pay and the difficulty in controlling his activities. Since 1950 we have received repeated indications that he has been drinking and we warned the Department that he should not be used in the Pittsburgh Smith Act trial.**" [FBI-HQ 100-418015, serial #9, 3/24/55 and 3/31/55, pages 59, 67-71; Page 71 points out "**that the difficulties which we have experienced with both Cvetic and Mazzei have primarily been confined to the period following their discontinuance as informants and each of them has attempted to capitalize on his past informant work for the FBI. Both Cvetic and Mazzei have made public statements which are exaggerated and designed to capture the public interest**".

In addition, even before becoming involved with the FBI, Cvetic had an uneasy domestic life. His marriage '*was never a happy one*', as he later carefully put it. Shortly after the wedding in 1929, he went to see doctors about what has been described as '*a nervous condition*' and during the mid-1930's Cvetic was '*treated*' by a Pittsburgh psychiatrist. Cvetic's ex-wife felt that '*as a husband he was a total failure*'. In 1939 she sued him for non-support and '*monies owed*'...That same year he was arrested for assaulting his wife's sister during an argument '*concerning monies loaned him by her*'. The sister-in-law suffered various injuries including a broken right wrist; subsequently, she agreed to a *nol pros* of Cvetic's indictment after he agreed to '*make restitution*' "

Daniel J. Leab: "**Anti-Communism, the FBI, and Matt Cvetic: The Ups and Downs of a Professional Informer**" [*Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, October 1991, pp 546-547]

MANNING RUDOLF JOHNSON

B: 12/18/08 (Washington DC); D: 07/02/59 (Lake Arrowhead CA)

Relevant FBI files

HQ 100-55627 (Johnson's HQ main file)

HQ 100-418015 (*Ex-Communists as Witnesses*)

Los Angeles 100-30844

NYC 100-17063 (consolidated July 1956 into NYC 65-10519)

NYC 65-10519 (Johnson's main NYC file)

Pittsburgh 67-2584A

San Francisco 100-18274

Manning Johnson joined the Communist Party in Buffalo, New York in 1930 as member #86380. He was a District Organizer from 1933 to September 1934 and then transferred to

the New York City section of the Party as the National Negro Organizer for Trade Union Unity League.

In April 1934, Johnson was a delegate and District Organizer for Communist Party District #4 (Buffalo) to the 8th Annual Convention of the Communist Party held in Cleveland. He was elected to the Party Central Committee but he was removed in 1938.

In June 1936 he was a delegate to the 9th Annual CPUSA Convention in New York City. In 1940, he was expelled from the Party because of failure to carry out orders. In 1938 he was involved in a dispute with leading members of the Party and he was demoted from the Central Committee on grounds of being an opportunist but he was not formally expelled from the Party until 1940.

From April 1942 to February 1944, Johnson provided information to the FBI. He received \$25 per week in April 1942 which then increased to \$35 per week until February 24, 1944. That month he joined the Navy. His House Committee on Un-American Activities testimony was in July 1949 (re: Harry Bridges case in San Francisco) and also January 1950 and July 8, 13-14, 1953 in HUAC *"Investigation of Communist Activities in the New York City Area, parts 7 and 8."* In September 1951 and in 1954 he testified before the Subversive Activities Control Board.

Johnson was never married but he had a daughter in 1935. In September 1948 he complained to the FBI about his difficulty in finding/keeping work because of his notoriety as a government witness. He said he felt 'used' by the government' and he admitted lying under oath in the April 1951 trial of Steve Nelson and when he was a witness against International Workers Order in New York.

In January 1955, Johnson was nominated by Col. Archibald B. Roosevelt for membership in the Bronx County, New York Jesse Palmer American Legion Post #1068 but that Post rejected his membership request based upon objections by its black members to Johnson's accusations (along with FBI informant Leonard Patterson) against Dr. Ralph Bunche. During a June 1953 United Nations Loyalty Investigation, both Patterson and Johnson claimed that Bunche was introduced to them at a 1935 meeting of the National Negro Congress as a Communist Party member. Subsequently, Johnson was employed as a consultant and witness by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in deportation cases.

In 1962 testimony before the General Legislative Investigative Committee of Mississippi, Johnson stated that the Southern Regional Council (SRC) was co-founded by James E. Jackson Jr., a Communist Party member and Johnson cited a 12/54 article in the *Daily Worker* as his source. However, Jackson was not associated with the SRC.

In his testimony before the pro-segregation Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee on Segregation on March 7-9, 1957, Johnson declared that the NAACP **"has become a vehicle of the Communist Party designed to overthrow the government of the United States."** <https://archive.org/details/louisiana-joint-legislative-committee-on-segregation-hearing-march-7-9-1957/mode/2up>

BY CONTRAST:

See agency comments regarding NAACP and our civil rights movement here:
<https://archive.org/details/government-agency-praise-for-civil-rights-movement>

In 1965, J. Edgar Hoover described the civil rights movement as **"a great and too long neglected cause of human rights" in our country.** [*FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, Introduction, April 1965].

After warning about radicals that had no genuine interest in advancing civil rights, Hoover observed in a December 1964 speech, that:

"Let me emphasize that the American civil rights movement is *not*, and has *never* been dominated by the communists--because the overwhelming majority of civil rights leaders in this country, both Negro and white, have recognized and rejected communism as a menace to the freedoms of all." [J. Edgar Hoover speech, 12/12/64, **"Our Heritage of Greatness"**, page 7 - Hoover speech before Pennsylvania Society and the Society of Pennsylvania Women; **bold** emphasis on **"not"** and **"never"** in original document].

In November 1966, the FBI received an inquiry from a self-identified John Birch Society member who saw the above 1964 quote by Hoover in a letter-to-the-editor of his local newspaper and he wanted to know if the quote was an accurate reflection of Hoover's judgment both in 1964 and 1966. Hoover replied affirmatively and concluded: **"This position remains essentially unchanged today."** [FBI-HQ 62-104401, serial #3021, 11/15/66 Hoover reply to incoming Bircher inquiry].

Also see following Hoover/FBI and other agency comments :

"It would be absurd to suggest that the aspirations of Negroes for equality are communist inspired. This is demonstrably not true..." [J. Edgar Hoover speech, **"Faith In Freedom,"** 12/4/63, page 6].

"In general, legitimate civil rights organizations have been successful in excluding Communists, although a few have received covert counseling from them and have even accepted them as members...The CP is not satisfied with this situation and is continually striving to infiltrate the civil rights movement at every level. " [J. Edgar Hoover, ***U.S. News and World Report***, 11/1/65, page 46].

"It is no secret that one of the bitterest disappointments to communistic efforts in this Nation has been their failure to lure our Negro citizens into the party. Despite every type of propaganda boomed at our Nation's Negro citizens, they have never succumbed to the party's saccharine promises of a Communist 'Utopia'. This generation and generations to come for many years owe a tremendous debt to our Negro citizens who have consistently refused to surrender their freedoms for the tyranny of communism." [J. Edgar Hoover testimony before U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, 01/17/60, reprinted in March 1960 ***FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin***, page 7]

"The Communist Party USA, despite its concentrated efforts, has failed to attract even a significant minority of the Negroes in the United States to its program". [FBI monograph, ***The Communist Party and the Negro 1953-1956***", page ii]

<https://archive.org/details/FBIMonographCommunistPartyNegro19531956>

"Communists in the United States have attempted to infiltrate and gain control of legitimate Negro-fraternal, protest-and-improvement organizations. To date, their efforts have been unsuccessful on a state or national level, although there have been some instances where the Communist Party has gained control of isolated chapters." [FBI monograph, ***The Communist Party and the Negro 1953-1956***" page v].

In early April 1947, NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White wrote to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to request a statement by Hoover on the NAACP which the organization could use in a pamphlet it was preparing. Hoover replied with the following statement:

"Equality, freedom, and tolerance are essential in a democratic government. The NAACP has done much to preserve these principles and to perpetuate the desires of our founding fathers."

With best wishes and kind regards. J. Edgar Hoover.” [FBI-HQ 61-3176, serial #378X; J. Edgar Hoover 4/14/47 letter to Walter White.]

In 1964, J. Edgar Hoover met with American Legion National Commander Don Johnson. Hoover discussed his feud with Martin Luther King Jr. According to a FBI memo summarizing the meeting, Hoover gave this evaluation of NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins:

"He also referred to Roy Wilkins. He mentioned that Wilkins was a responsible type individual attempting to do a good job." [HQ 94-1-17998, serial #1741 which is an 11/11/64 memo from Assistant Director C.D. DeLoach regarding Hoover's meeting on 11/10/64 with American Legion National Commander Don Johnson, page 2]

In contrast to Manning Johnson's position about the NAACP circulated by white supremacists and by extreme right groups like the John Birch Society, the FBI considered NAACP leaders such as Walter White and Roy Wilkins to be responsible moderate anti-Communists and the FBI frequently praised their leadership of the NAACP. Roy Wilkins was one of the black leaders whom the FBI thought most desirable to replace Martin Luther King Jr. as the leading advocate for African-Americans.

A 1955 FBI memo summarized data in the Bureau's file on the NAACP with respect to Communist Party (CP) interest in the organization:

Page 1: "NAACP incorporated in New York City in 1911. Declared aim is to secure full citizenship for Negroes. Bureau is in receipt of reports since 1941 re: Communist attempts to infiltrate NAACP. CP has had measure of success in controlling isolated chapters but unable to dominate the organization on state or national level. National Convention of NAACP in 1955 reaffirmed stand taken at 1950 convention to oppose Communism...Dominant figures are Roy Wilkins and Thurgood Marshall, executive secretary and special counsel, respectively, who have been associated with CP front organizations in 1940's but now appear to be strongly anti-Communist."

Page 4: "All Negro Party members have been instructed to join NAACP chapters to exert their influence in NAACP programs. Local chapters in some localities, e.g Chicago, have been penetrated to the extent that CP members have become officers of these chapters. However, most chapters, as well as the national office, are acutely aware of the constant attempt on the part of the CP to dominate these local groups and are actively combating the Communists in their efforts." [HQ 61-3176, serial #1077; 10/21/55 memo from A.H. Belmont to L.V. Boardman.]

In April 1968, FBI Assistant Director William Sullivan prepared a paper for publication in *Religion In Life*, a journal produced by the University of North Carolina Law School. Sullivan was in charge of the Bureau's Domestic Intelligence Division.

In a section captioned "**Gains In Equality**", Sullivan praised "**precedent-establishing Negroes** (whom) **through hard work and abundance of ability and talent have become nationally and internationally prominent.**"

Among the persons Sullivan cited as deserving of respect and praise and "**outstanding recognition**" were the following individuals whom bigots universally were hostile toward:

Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Supreme Court Justice and former General Counsel of NAACP; **Robert C. Weaver**, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Ralph Bunche (who) "**has ably served this country at the United Nations**"; **Carl Rowan** "**who has served his country with distinction**"; **Roy Wilkins**, **A. Philip Randolph** and **Whitney Young** (who) "**have used their great skill and resources to gain so much for their fellow Negroes through remedies available under the law.**" [William C. Sullivan, *Communism and the American Negro*, Winter 1968, *Religion in Life*, page 600].

OTHER AGENCY EVALUATIONS

"The Communist Party in this country has, from its inception, endeavored to attract Negroes to its ranks. At one stage of its existence the Party even undertook to establish a Negro nation in the deep South and through its Southern Conference for Human Welfare made an all-out effort to recruit large numbers of the Negro people. This attempt, like the Communist attempt to penetrate and control the N.A.A.C.P., resulted in failure." [*Eleventh Report of the California Senate Fact-Finding Subcommittee on Un-American Activities*, 1961, page 136].

Also see the following comments by the House Committee on Un-American Activities:

"The Communist Party in the United States of America, in its continuing efforts to infiltrate and destroy the Constitutional government of this country, has made the minority groups in the United States prime targets of attack...The fact that the Communist conspiracy has experienced so little success in attracting the American Negro to its cause reflects favorably on the loyalty and integrity of the vast majority of the 15,000,000 Negro citizens. To attest to this fact we restate the words of Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which appeared in the *Congressional Record* of January 26, 1953:

'We recently reviewed the origins of 5,395 of the leading members of the Communist Party. The results were most interesting. Only 411 were Negroes but of the remaining 4,984, we found that 4,555, (or 91 ½ percent) were either of foreign birth or born of foreign parents...The fact that only 411 Negroes were found in this select group is strong evidence that the American Negro is not hoodwinked by these false messiahs.'

"In furtherance of its traitorous design the Communist Party of the United States has exploited issues of genuine concern to the American Negro and all Americans." [Committee on Un-American Activities, U.S. House of Representatives, *"The American Negro in the Communist Party"* 12/22/54, page 1]

And in its **"Conclusion"**, the Committee observed:

"From the facts set forth in this report, the committee can only conclude that the vast majority of Americans of the Negro race have consistently resisted the blandishments and treacherous promises offered them by the Communist conspirators." [Committee on Un-American Activities, U.S. House of Representatives, *"The American Negro in the Communist Party"* 12/22/54, page 13].

In addition, the FBI falsified most of the major arguments circulated by white supremacists and by the extreme right concerning groups like Highlander Folk School of Monteagle TN which was falsely described by bigots as a **"Communist training school"** which was **"attended"** by Martin Luther King Jr.

A July 1963 FBI memo summarizes the FBI file on Highlander Folk School:

"Due to the interracial character of the School, it has been the subject of numerous allegations that it represented the headquarters of communism in east Tennessee. An extensive investigation was conducted in 1941 and 1942 as a result of the allegations. These allegations have never been substantiated and much of the information of a subversive derogatory nature concerning this School was later repudiated by the individuals who previously furnished the information...This organization has continuously been involved in the integration movement and as a result charges are being continuously made that it is 'communist'. These charges are based mainly on the opinion of the individuals making the charges that being pro-integration is being pro-communist." [FBI-HQ 64-7511, serial #286, July 26, 1963, F.J. Baumgardner to W.C. Sullivan].

Abbreviations Used in Key FBI documents re: Manning Johnson

AAG = Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
 Alan Belmont = FBI Asst Director, Security Division aka Domestic Intelligence Division
 DCSW = Departmental Committee on Security Witnesses (Dept of Justice)
 DoJ or "*Department*" = Department of Justice (usually Internal Security Division)
 HUAC = House Committee on Un-American Activities
 INS = Immigration and Naturalization Service
 ISD = Internal Security Division of U.S. Department of Justice
 JEH = J. Edgar Hoover
 D. Milton Ladd = Assistant Director, FBI Security Division
 Alex Rosen = FBI Assistant Director in charge of Investigative Division
 SA = FBI Special Agent
 SAC = Special Agent in Charge of specific FBI field office
 SACB = Subversive Activities Control Board
 SISS = U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee
 SNR = serial number not recorded

File Number / Date, Pages	To/From	Content
NYC 100-115609 on HUAC		Johnson's HUAC testimony Part 7 = 7/8/53 Part 8 = 7/13-14/53 <i>"Investigation of Communist Activities in the New York City Area"</i>
HQ 100-55627, #25, 1/13/54, page 12	SAC NYC to JEH	DOJ Criminal Division phoned FBI to inquire to request info re: whether or not Johnson and Patterson "had only recently seen fit to give info relative to Bunche or whether they had furnished info previously and again during the United Nations loyalty investigation."
HQ 100-55627, #27, 5/28/54, page 14	SAC NYC to JEH	Memo to Alex Rosen (Asst Director, FBI Investigative Division: DOJ Criminal Division phoned FBI to inquire whether or not Johnson and Patterson "had only recently seen fit to give info relative to Bunche or whether they had furnished info previously and again during the United Nations loyalty investigation." Johnson and Patterson's derogatory info re Ralph Bunche was that they claimed they were "introduced (to Bunche) individually as a CP member at a meeting of top leaders of the Party fraction of the National Negro Congress in Washington DC in 1935."
HQ 100-55627, #SNR, 6/1/54, page 15 Original copies in 138-14-, #268 and #308 and #313	NYC FBI Supervisor to Alex Rosen	Informant files of Johnson and Patterson were checked by NYC office and it was determined that "...there was no indication that either Johnson or Patterson had furnished info concerning Bunche prior to their interview in the Bunche case on June 8 and 12th 1959"
HQ 100-55627, #SNR, 3/31/55, page 20-21	SAC NYC to JEH	On 9/20/48 the NYC office of INS advised FBI that Manning Johnson showed an INS Agent a subpoena he received ordering him to appear in the case of (name redacted)... and Johnson "'blew up' inasmuch as he had been served the subpoena in the stock room of his employment, and that his notoriety as a government witness would be clear in the minds of the union officials at his employment. Johnson was very angry because he has been 'used' by the government and state agencies and other committees as a witness so often that he has had considerable trouble in obtaining work. It is noted that Johnson allegedly admitted under oath that he had lied not only in the case against Steve Nelson but also when he was a witness in the suit brought against the International Workers Order in NYC in that he did not tell the truth about his previous connections with the FBI."

		Page 21 shows history of payments made to Johnson by FBI from 1942 to 1949.
HQ 100-55627, 19, 3/15/55 pages 24-26	Summary memo re Johnson	<p>Manning Johnson not used as FBI informant since 1944 "but has been contacted from time to time for information in his possession concerning Communist matters."</p> <p>"The testimony of Manning Johnson in the case of Alfred H. Bohlinger versus the International Workers Order before the Supreme Court, County of New York, reflects that Johnson was a witness from February 2 to February 5, 1951. Under cross-examination he was questioned at great length concerning testimony previously given by him in the Gerhard Eisler case and at the Dmytryshyn hearings conducted by the INS. The defense atty charged that Johnson perjured his testimony in the above-mentioned cases. This was denied by Johnson.</p> <p>In the Steve Nelson State Sedition trial in Pittsburgh PA in April 1951, Johnson admitted in cross-examination that in a previous case on the west coast in 1948 he had not told the truth re: the furnishing of reports on Communist activities to any Federal agency. This case was a deportation case against Nat Yanish, Advertising Manager of the 'Daily People's World'. In his testimony at Pittsburgh, Johnson said that since he had given his promise to the FBI to maintain secrecy, in his opinion it would not be a violation of any oath if he maintained such secrecy for security on the nation.</p> <p>As Johnson was appearing before the SACB in September, 1951, the above information concerning Johnson's testimony in the Steve Nelson State Sedition trial was furnished by letter dated Sept 24, 1951 to AAG James M. McInernay of the Criminal Division of the Dept of Justice. The AAG was also advised that Johnson was instructed, as are all informants, to maintain the informant relationship as confidential but no instructions were given to any informants to deny the relationship under oath."</p>
HQ 100-55627, SNR, 5/5/55, page 44	AAG William F. Thompkins ISD-DoJ to JEH	"On March 9, 1955, this Division concluded that in any future proceeding the information supplied by Patterson or Johnson should be meticulously scrutinized and that every possible effort should be made to eliminate the necessity of calling these individuals as government witnesses in internal security cases."
HQ 100-55627, #29, 8/26/55, page 61	SAC NYC to JEH	Johnson acknowledged having "illegitimate daughter" as result of an affair in the early 1930's"
HQ 100-55627, #SNR, 12/11/56, page 64	Memo to Alan Belmont re DCSW	"The INS advised the testimony of witness Manning Johnson (cleared by the Committee May 19, 1955) in the case of the CP, USA, before the SACB (09/51) had been expunged by the Board..."
100-418015, #9, 3/24/55, and 3/31/55, pages 59, 67-71	L.V. Boardman to JEH	Memo discusses testimony of Leonard Patterson and Manning Johnson who claimed that Ralph Bunche was a member of the CP in 1934 or 1935. "This testimony was denied by Bunche and by (name redacted) at whose office Bunche was supposed to have attended a Communist Party meeting, according to Johnson and Patterson. In July, 1954, the Department requested additional investigation by the FBI as to whether Patterson and Johnson may have perjured themselves. Additional investigation did not result in evidence which would resolve the question."
HQ 100-55627, #SNR, 12/3/56, pages 66-67		Minutes of 12/3/56 meeting of the Departmental Committee on Security Witnesses observed that INS advised the Committee "that the testimony of witness Manning Johnson in the case

		of the Communist Party USA before the SACB had been expunged by the Board as a result of court action.”
HQ 100-55627, #SNR, 4/2/59 page 70	JEH to AAG-ISD-DoJ	“In February 1957, the Interdepartmental Committee on Security Witnesses considered Johnson’s case and decided not to utilize him as a witness for the Government in any future cases.”
HQ 100-55627, #33, 7/13/59, pages 74-77	SAC NYC to JEH	<p>NYC SAC reported death of Manning Johnson in Lake Arrowhead CA hospital after he had a car accident.</p> <p>The son of a friend of Johnson was driving a car in which Johnson was his passenger. The son was driving up a mountain while another car came down the mountain and almost hit the car Johnson was in and “the son had to swerve and the car went over a cliff. It apparently wasn’t too serious and he was to be released from the hospital in a cast in a few days, but on Thursday, a week ago, he had just asked the nurse for something and she turned away and he fell back in his chair dead. An autopsy showed he had serious hardening of the arteries and that a artery of the heart failed.”</p> <p>NOTE: Many extreme right individuals and organizations (including Robert Welch and the Birch Society) claimed there was something “suspicious” about Johnson’s death. The same claim was made re: the death of Sen. Joseph McCarthy.</p> <p>Johnson was buried in San Bernardino CA. His wife did not attend his funeral.</p>
NYC 65-10519, #665, 3/5/56 page 2 re Cominfil of United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (UERMA).	<p>NYC SA to SAC re: Johnson accusations against Professor Melvin Rader of University of Washington.</p> <p>45-page document in <i>Matles Case Manual</i> section captioned “Informers”</p>	“The Attorney General of the State of Washington had to conclude that Johnson simply had not been telling the truth, and the Professor was reinstated.”

Manning Johnson’s FBI files reveal the following FBI analysis of his public testimony.

In December 1958, Manning Johnson testified at hearings conducted by the Arkansas Legislative Council Committee which was investigating possible links between communism and racial unrest in Arkansas. Johnson previously testified in March 1957 at hearings conducted by the Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee on Segregation.

The Louisiana Committee was created to defend and preserve segregation in Louisiana.

The FBI summary concerning Johnson’s Arkansas testimony pointed out that **“...he is not in a position to speak authoritatively regarding the present tactics and activities of the Communist Party in the Negro field as he was dropped from the Communist Party in 1939. It would appear Johnson was attempting to prove or infer that the present racial unrest is the result of Communist Party policies formulated in the 1920s and 30s. This premise is not supported by data in Bufiles; however it is observed that the Communist Party, at every opportunity, has attempted to capitalize on the situation...Johnson’s testimony adds nothing to our knowledge in this field.”** [FBI-HQ 62-105198, serial #8, page 1; SAC Little Rock to J. Edgar Hoover, regarding Arkansas Legislative Council Committee; also FBI-Little Rock file 44-341].

In March 1957 when Johnson testified before the Louisiana Legislative Committee, he declared that the NAACP **“has become a vehicle of the Communist Party designed to overthrow the government of the United States.”**

Johnson's comment (below) is almost identical to the malicious propaganda produced/endorsed by white supremacist groups in the United States.

"The Communist Party has very successfully infiltrated the foremost Negro organization in this country. It is not exactly a Negro organization. It is a mixed breed of some type I will attempt to describe. But, anyhow, the Communists are working in and have infiltrated and are working through the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Now, the reason the CP has concentrated on the NAACP is because the NAACP in recent years has become one of the most influential Negro—or I should say mixed breed organizations in the country. They see in that organization the possibility of developing a national liberation movement, particularly in the south...The liberation movement, as I understand it and know it from training and experience in the Communist Party, means national Negro rebellion in the south stretching from across the old black belt, or the old cotton belt of the south...This is where they hope to develop this national liberation movement. Where they hope to set up this Negro Republic." [*Subversion In Racial Unrest—An Outline of a Strategic Weapon To Destroy The Governments of Louisiana and the United States*, Part II, March 6-9, 1957, page 155.]

With respect to Manning Johnson's derogatory comments regarding the NAACP as a **"Communist front"**, the FBI observed that in response to an inquiry by the *Pittsburgh PA Courier* newspaper in April 1957, the Department of Justice informed the Courier that...

...**"the Department informed the NAACP that recent statements made by Johnson attempting to link the NAACP with the Communist Party did not reflect the views nor findings of the Justice Department; that Johnson was not one of its employees as reportedly cited in various newspaper accounts; and that Johnson in no way was connected with the Department nor did he speak for the Department."** [FBI-HQ 62-105198, serial #8, page 6; SAC Little Rock to J. Edgar Hoover, regarding Arkansas Legislative Council Committee; also FBI-Little Rock file 44-341].

Other FBI informants inside the Communist Party (who later became paid speakers for the John Birch Society) flatly contradicted Manning Johnson. For example, Julia C. Brown pointed out during one interview:

Julia stated that Communists had **"little or no influence"** within the NAACP and she concluded that:

"I'm 100 percent with the NAACP and I think they are doing a wonderful job. Top government officials are aware that the NAACP is legal and is working in the American way for first class citizenship for all Americans." [*Ebony* magazine, "I Was A Spy For The FBI", March 1961, p102].

Another FBI informant inside the Party (Lola Belle Holmes, also a paid JBS speaker) made the same report to the FBI about the NAACP.]

In her 1966 memoir (*I Testify*), published by the Birch Society, Julia observed:

"Many times I have been asked if the NAACP was a Communist front organization. I have been able to say, truthfully, that, so far as I could discern, it was not. Indeed the great Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP prior to his death, fought Communism with might and main. Older NAACP leaders have been equally fierce in their opposition to the Red conspiracy. But it has only been by dint of great effort on the part of these loyal men and women that the Party has been thwarted in its attempts to completely dominate the NAACP." ... [Julia Brown, *I Testify: My Years As An FBI Undercover Agent*, Western Islands, 1966, pages 124-125.

Julia also mentioned that the wife of one prominent CPUSA official **"hated the NAACP as did all other Communists."** (Ibid, page 125]

Julia estimated that the Communist Party in the U.S. was only 1% black and she then observed ***“It is difficult to recruit a Negro for Communism because he is naturally religious.”***

[Note: According to FBI Security Index stats, ***about 11-12%*** of SI subjects were black. In the period from 1955-1963, the number of blacks on the *Security Index* was consistently in the range of 1450-1550 out of 12,000-13,000 listees.]

Like Manning Johnson, FBI informant Julia Brown **often** tried to convince audiences that she had unique expert knowledge about many internal security matters even though she did NOT possess that expertise because it was *outside her personal experience and knowledge* --- which is why the FBI came to the conclusion that Julia and Lola Belle Holmes had become ***“professional anti-Communists”*** after associating with the Birch Society when they made false or misleading statements just to continue making a lucrative living by receiving their JBS paychecks.

During Manning Johnson’s January 1948 testimony before the Washington State Un-American Activities Committee (aka the Canwell Committee), Johnson claimed that there were 85000 members of the Communist Party in the USA.

https://depts.washington.edu/labhist/cpproject/canwell_testimony.shtml

The actual number in 1948 according to the FBI was 58,800 per FBI training monograph, *“Membership of the Communist Party USA, 1919-1954”*, May 1955, page iii]. See FBI membership chart stats in link at:

https://archive.org/details/foia_FBI_Monograph-Membership_of_CPUSA_1919-1954/page/n7/mode/2up

The same information appears in the FBI-NYC file 100-80638 on Communist Party membership. During his Canwell Committee testimony, Johnson never explained what he based his Party membership stats upon but this is a common rhetorical device used by political extremists—i.e. just pretend to know something which is totally outside their actual first-hand knowledge.

Another example concerns John Birch Society founder Robert Welch’s claim that there were between 300,000 and 500,000 Party members in the United States. [Robert Welch, *JBS Bulletin*, July 1961] The actual number per the FBI in July 1961 was ***5262!***

In March 1967, Welch stated that 2% of the U.S. population was *“Communist”*. The U.S. population in 1967 was 198,712,056 so Welch’s 2% estimate would mean 3,974,240 Communists in the United States. [*San Francisco Examiner*, 3/9/67, page 11; UPI report: ***“Birch Chief Says U.S. Is 60 to 80 Percent Red Controlled”***]

This is but one of numerous examples which reveal that Welch just fabricated meaningless statistical data in an effort to make readers or listeners believe he was a serious person with special insights but, subsequently, he would often contradict his own original fabrications. [See FBI New York field file 100-80638, serial #1882, which is a 6/30/61 FBI Chart of CPUSA Membership, by state, by FBI field divisions and by CPUSA Districts.]

Yet another example concerns former FBI informant Karl Prussion who repeatedly contradicted his own reports regarding the number of Party members in both California and in the United States.

Despite the accusations made by Manning Johnson, the FBI concluded that:

“Despite the recurring allegations by Southern political leaders that the racial situation is Communist-inspired, our investigation of the Communist Party and the over-all racial situation in this country has reflected that in practically all instances, with relatively few exceptions, racial incidents in this country have not been caused or

inspired by Communist Party elements.” [FBI-HQ 62-105198, serial #8, page 5; SAC Little Rock to J. Edgar Hoover, regarding Arkansas Legislative Council Committee; also FBI-Little Rock file 44-341].

For additional details see:

<https://archive.org/details/arkansaslegislativecouncilcommitteehq62105198/mode/2up>

J. Edgar Hoover grew so weary of the falsehoods disseminated by Birch Society recommended speakers and writers (including Manning Johnson), that he issued the following statement:

“Let me emphasize that the American civil rights movement is *not*, and has *never* been dominated by the communists—because the overwhelming majority of civil rights leaders in this country, both Negro and white, have recognized and rejected communism as a menace to the freedoms of all.” [J. Edgar Hoover speech, 12/12/64, “*Our Heritage of Greatness*”, page 7 - Hoover speech before Pennsylvania Society and the Society of Pennsylvania Women; bold emphasis on “**not**” and “**never**” appears in original document].

For additional comments by Hoover, the FBI and other security entities see:

<https://archive.org/details/government-agency-praise-for-civil-rights-movement>

For much more historical detail regarding the Birch Society’s 6-Decade attack upon our civil rights movement and its leaders, see:

<https://archive.org/details/john-birch-society-vs-civil-rights-movement-249pp/mode/2up>

In April 1951 Manning Johnson admitted lying under oath during the sedition trial of Steve Nelson.

Manning Johnson's 1954 personal memoir (*Color, Communism, Common Sense*) was originally published by Alliance, Inc. in New York City which was a publishing house operated by Archibald B. Roosevelt (Archie was the son of Theodore Roosevelt and he later became a John Birch Society member. The JBS published Manning Johnson’s memoir in 1963 as an *American Opinion* reprint.)

This same Archibald Roosevelt wrote a letter to Verne Kaub in 1962 which described the political situation in New York. Roosevelt told Kaub that “*professional do-gooders*” planned **“to be elected by being extreme pro-negro...By extreme I really mean special privileges for the negro, who in most cases is certainly below the average white man in intelligence.”** [9/20/62 letter from Archibald B. Roosevelt to Verne P. Kaub, Madison WI].

THAT is how JBS members used Manning Johnson but behind his back they adopted and circulated racist arguments.

I have posted Manning Johnson's FBI files on Internet Archive for anybody who wants want to review them -- along with the FBI's very caustic analyses of his post-FBI lies and misrepresentations—some of which are discussed below.

Interested parties should also review the FBI file captioned **“Department Committee on Security Witnesses”** [FBI-HQ file 100-418015 and FBI-New York City 100-26864] because they go into mind-numbing details re: the lies and misrepresentations of Manning Johnson as well as several other former FBI or INS informants.

In February 1957, the Interdepartmental Committee on Security Witnesses considered Johnson’s case and decided **not** to utilize him as a witness for the Government in any future cases because of his dishonesty. Johnson and INS informant Leonard Patterson made charges against Dr. Ralph Bunche (in 1950, Bunche became the first African American Nobel Peace Prize winner) but they were found to be non-credible by the Loyalty Review Board.

Johnson's Attack on University of Washington Professor Melvin Rader

"Johnson testified that a University of Washington professor attended a Communist Party or Communist school in Kingston NY for six weeks in the summer of 1938. But documentary evidence showed beyond any question or doubt that the professor was not in New York state during that entire period...Johnson testified against Dr. Ralph Bunche of the UN. A loyalty board of the UN itself heard the testimony and unanimously cleared Dr. Ralph Bunche." [FBI HQ file 100-55627, 3/3/55 memo from Special Agent in Charge of New York City field office to J. Edgar Hoover re: Manning Johnson].

Rader stated that he never met Johnson although Johnson claimed to have met Rader several times. In summer of 1948, the Washington State Un-American Activities Committee chaired by Albert Canwell conducted a public hearing into "*subversive activities*" at the University of Washington. At this hearing, one witness (George Hewitt) accused Rader of having been a Communist Party member. Hewitt also claimed that he had been Rader's teacher at a highly secret Communist school at Briehl's Farm, near Kingston, New York for a period of about six weeks in the Summer of 1938.

Rader denied this charge under oath and also stated he had never been in New York State. Hewitt was indicted for perjury but he resisted extradition. Then, Manning Johnson signed an affidavit on September 20, 1948 in which he declared about Rader that **"he personally remembered me 'as having been present at the Communist Party school held at Briehl's Farm near Kingston NY in the summer of 1938' and that he further met me at 'Communist Party headquarters, 50 E. 13th Street, New York in the executive offices on the 9th floor on various occasions in the Summer of 1938'"**

On May 12, 1949 there was a habeas corpus hearing in Judge Aaorn J. Levy's courtroom in New York City. Johnson was shown a picture of Melvin Rader and he again testified (under oath) that **"he had seen the person pictured 'a number of times, going in and out of the office' at the Party's national headquarters in the Summer of 1938'."**

On cross- examination, Johnson was asked twice if he was **"positive that this is the picture of the man you saw up at Briehl's school..."** and Johnson's answer was **"I'm positive"**.

Records of the University of Washington Comptroller's office proved that Rader taught summer school in 1938 until July 20. Affidavits from the former owner and care-taker of Canyon Creek Lodge resort near Seattle confirmed that Rader, his wife, and one child were guests at that Lodge for about a month in the summer of 1938. Rader's signature on the Register was also produced. A rent receipt book located by the owner of the Lodge contained the record of Rader paying rent for a cabin for August through September 5, 1938.

Dr. Carl Jensen, a Seattle eye specialist, produced records showing that on August 15, 1938 (in the middle of the period when Johnson and Hewitt claimed Rader was in New York State), the doctor gave Rader an eye exam and a prescription for new glasses. Voting records in the City Clerk office of Seattle, showed that Rader voted in Seattle in their primary election of September 13, 1938.

After conducting an investigation, the Attorney General of Washington state issued an official Report on May 5, 1950, which concluded that:

"The only reasonable conclusion that can be reached...is that George Hewitt did not tell the truth." And, of course, Manning Johnson's testimony is equally suspect.

The aforementioned FBI file captioned *Interdepartmental Committee on Security Witnesses* also reported that:

"It is noted that Manning Johnson admitted under oath that he had lied not only in the case against Steve Nelson but also when he was a witness in the suit brought against the International Workers Order in NYC in that he did not tell the truth about his previous connections with the FBI."

The New York City FBI file on Johnson includes this content:

Manning Johnson testified against Harry Bridges. Johnson testified that Bridges had been present at a Communist convention in New York City. Johnson gave the date, the time and the place where he allegedly saw Harry Bridges at the Communist convention.

But there was irrefutable evidence presented that Harry Bridges was at a Longshore meeting on union business in Stockton, California! [FBI-HQ 65-10519, serial #665, 3/5/56].

In another case, Johnson testified in the trial of Ben Gold, President of the International Fur and Leather Workers Union. Gold was on trial for allegedly falsely signing a Taft-Hartley anti-communist affidavit.

Johnson testified about Gold's attendance at a May 27, 1938 Communist Party convention and he stated Gold was a main speaker at a Madison Square Garden rally which concluded the convention. However, evidence was produced which indicated that Gold addressed two mass meetings of fur workers at two different New York City locations at the same time he supposedly (according to Johnson) was at Madison Square Garden. [FBI-HQ 65-10519, serials #691-#692, 3/10-11/54]

During the Gold trial, Johnson also testified that only Communists who were close supporters of the Communist Party were permitted to speak at May Day celebrations or at other "*Communist dominated*" events but under cross examination he acknowledged that an **anti**-Communist official of the Retail Union and Charles Zimmerman of the ILGWU who both had been expelled from the Party were among the speakers. [FBI-New York City file 65-10519, serial #692, 3/11/54]

There are other examples of Johnson's disingenuousness. ONLY credulous/gullible people don't understand the relevant history re: people like Manning Johnson.

Informants supply RAW information of varying quality. But many informants (like Manning Johnson) earned a lucrative living by offering to testify for the compensation it provided OR they just enjoyed the public recognition they achieved from giving speeches or writing about their alleged expertise.

Groups like the Birch Society never bothered to perform due diligence to evaluate the information provided by people like Manning Johnson --- especially when informants made comments which did NOT conform to JBS ideology.

Manning Johnson wrote an article in 1952 for a national Catholic monthly publication in which Johnson attempted to explain why some black Americans were seduced by the Communist Party. In his article, Manning wrote about "*Big Tom*" Williams:

"He was born and reared in Jim Crow surroundings which in time he grew to hate. The narrowly circumscribed life based upon race hate and the belief that he had no rights which a white man was bound to respect rankled and embittered him...After graduation he married a fine and attractive girl and would have settled down, but he could not harden himself to the Jim Crow surroundings as had so many others of his race. The vivid recollections of a race riot in which white hoodlums indiscriminately attacked Negroes, burned their homes, wrecked their businesses, and the Roman Holiday atmosphere that prevailed when one of his neighbors was dragged from his home and lynched, left a deep impression on him so that no amount of persuasion could stop him from moving his family North to '*freedom*'." [Manning Johnson: "**Big Tom, The Red**", *The Sign* magazine, December 1952]

Significantly, the Birch Society never informed its members about the type of experience described above by Johnson which was faced by many African Americans.

Nor did the JBS ever correctly inform its members about the reasons why African Americans (or other racial or religious minorities) became interested in radical left organizations, i.e., why radicalism appealed to certain segments of our society—including minorities. For relevant background about this matter, see the 309-page December 1951 FBI training monograph entitled *“Reasons Why People Accept and Reject Communism”*. In particular, see the section about African American author, Richard Wright (pages 71-76).

Another African American Birch Society paid speaker, George S. Schuyler, accurately wrote about the REAL situation faced by African Americans:

“THE WHITE Citizens Council which has branches or cells everywhere, controls by terror such states as Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and to a lesser extent, Virginia. It has castigated the Supreme Court in general and the Chief Justice in particular. It has defied and disrupted the operation of the laws of the land. It has used threats and vicious economic reprisals. It is as undemocratic as the John Birch Society and it exacts large sums of money from its followers. It has become a legal arm of Mississippi's Government. Why no furore to investigate the White Citizens Council?” [4/22/61 George Schuyler column in *Pittsburgh PA Courier*] .

By contrast, the Birch Society INVITED and welcomed members of the White Citizens Councils movement into the JBS as members, as paid speakers and authors, and as paid JBS Coordinators.